

REMARKS

Claims 12-14, 16-19 and 21-29 are pending in this application. Claims 16-18 and 21-29 stand withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 12, 14, 17, 19 and 22 are amended for clarification. Support for the amendments can be found for example, in Fig. 5 and its supporting disclosure. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Personal Interview

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Hinze in the May 17, 2010 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 12-14 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 2001-30597 to Ota in view of Machinery's Handbook. The Rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ota and Machinery's Handbook fail to disclose and would not have rendered obvious "a damper member positioned to generate a biasing force within the stamp that maintains the second print face at a position projected in a stamping direction beyond the first print face in the absence of an external force acting on the first and second print faces, the damper member being compressed at the time of stamping so that said first print face and said second print face are matched with each other," as recited in claim 12.

The Office Action asserts that the stamp A of Ota corresponds to the first print face of claim 12 and that the spring 12 corresponds to the damper member of claim 12. Applicant disagrees with the Office Action's assertion. For example, the stamp of Ota is configured so

that a twisting motion of the sheathing object 11 causes the stamp A to retract so that stamp B is projected beyond the stamp A in a stamping direction (see Ota, paragraph [0020]). When the stamp A of Ota is extended, the stamp A is even with stamp B. Thus, stamp A is not projected beyond stamp B in a stamping direction, and Ota fails to disclose the damper member of claim 12.

Even if the stamp B of Ota corresponded with the first print face of claim 12, Ota still would fail to disclose and would not have rendered obvious the damper member of claim 12. For example, stamp A of Ota is retracted and extended independently of an external force acting on the stamp B of Ota at the time of stamping (see Ota, Fig. 1 and paragraph [0020]). In addition, the biasing force of the spring 12 of Ota pushes the face A of Ota to be even with the stamp B (see Ota, Fig. 1). Thus, the biasing force of spring 9 does not cause face B to be projected beyond face A. Furthermore, because Face A does not project beyond face B, spring 9 is not compressed at the time of stamping (see Ota, Fig. 1).

Machinery's Handbook fails to remedy the above deficiencies.

Claims 13, 14 and 19 depend from claim 12. Therefore, claims 13, 14 and 19 are patentable at least for their dependence from claim 12 as well as for the additional features those claims recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejoinder

Withdrawn claims 16-18 and 21-29 depend from claim 12. Therefore those claims recite every feature of claim 12. Thus, rejoinder of those claims is requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:BKK/jls

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: May 20, 2010

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